

Wellington Rural District Council
(SOMERSET)

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1946

By HUGH MORRISON,

M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

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WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1946.

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WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1946.

Area (In Acres)	37,911
Estimate of Resident Population, mid-year, 1946	7,663
Census Population, 1931	7,525
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books on 31st December, 1946	2,227
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1946	£30,447
Sum represented by a 1d. Rate, 31st December, 1946	£127. 19s. 3d

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR, 1946.

Live Births:—	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	
Legitimate	128	56	72	Birth rate per 1,000 of the
Illegitimate	12	8	4	estimated resident population
	—	—	—	18.27.
	140	64	76	
	—	—	—	

Still Births—Total	2 (both legitimate).
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	14.08
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	0.26

Deaths—Total	110.
Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	14.35
Deaths from Puerperal causes—Total	Nil.

	<i>Deaths.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 births.</i>
From Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
From other Maternal causes	1	7.04

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age—Total	4
Legitimate	3
Illegitimate	1
Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	28.47
Rate for legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births	23.44
Rate for illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	83.33

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	20
,, Measles (all ages)	—
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	—
,, Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	—

Rates for England and Wales as a whole:—

Live births per 1,000 civilian population	19.1
Still births per 1,000 civilian population	0.53
Deaths (all causes) per 1,000 civilian population	11.5
Maternal Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births	1.43
Infant Mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (live and still) births	43.00

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1946.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers.....	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever.....	—	—	—
Scarlet fever.....	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	2	—	2
Other forms of tuberculosis	—	—	—
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ..	—	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis.....	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus	1	1	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	3	4
Cancer of breast	—	2	2
Cancer of all other sites	7	5	12
Diabetes	—	—	—
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	7	8	15
Heart disease	10	26	36
Other disease of the circulatory system....	3	3	6
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Other respiratory disease	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years),	—	—	—
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other digestive disease	—	—	—
Nephritis	2	1	3
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	1	1
Premature birth	2	—	2
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	1	1	2
Suicide	1	—	1
Road traffic accidents.....	—	—	—
Other violent causes	—	2	2
All other causes	3	7	10
All causes—Total	46	64	110

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1946.

The following particulars refer to children who died before the age of one year:—

	<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Age of Death</i>	<i>Sex.</i>
1	Malnutrition	1 month	F
2	Prematurity	1 week	M
3	Prematurity	2 days	M
4	Congenital Atelectasis	4 hours	M

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals.

Infectious Diseases.—Cases of infectious diseases are sent to the Taunton and District Joint Isolation Hospital, situated in the Borough of Taunton—Wellington Rural District is one of the contributory authorities. Home Isolation is carried out whenever the home conditions are satisfactory. Some cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum are admitted to the Isolation Hospital but maintained by the Somerset County Council. Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are similarly admitted to the Isolation Hospital and maintained by the County Council.

Tuberculosis.—Cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis come under the County Scheme for treatment. The Sanatoria are at Quantock, Wincanton and Taunton for Pulmonary cases. Cases requiring Orthopaedic treatment are admitted to Chard Sanatorium and to Bath Orthopaedic Hospital. Pre-Tubercular children and children with Tubercular Glands are sent to Compton Bishop Children's Home, near Axbridge.

Small-Pox.—Provisions for the accommodation of cases of Small-pox is made by the County Council at its Hospital at Cossington, near Bridgwater.

General Medical and Surgical.—The district is served by the Cottage Hospital in Wellington, and there are in-patient and out-patient facilities at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital in Taunton and at the Hospitals in Bristol.

Chronic Sick.—These are received into the Public Assistance Institutions in Wellington and Taunton.

Mental Sick.—Cases are admitted to the Mental Hospital at Tonevale, near Taunton.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Tuberculosis.—Clinics for this disease are held in Taunton as part of the County Tuberculosis Scheme and are attended by a County Tuberculosis Officer. In conjunction with the Clinics there is an After Care Committee working in co-operation with the Tuberculosis Officer.

Venereal Diseases.—A combined Clinic and Treatment Centre is maintained by the County Council at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Maternity and Child Welfare Acts are administered by the County Council, under whose supervision are also the midwives practising within the area. There is an excellent Maternity Home in Wellington Urban District, to which a considerable number of women from the Rural District is admitted for confinement. Every case of Puerperal Pyrexia and Maternal Mortality is investigated by the Medical Staff of the County Council.

Laboratory Facilities.—The County Laboratory is situated in the Borough of Taunton. No charge is made for the general bacteriological examinations of swabs, blood, sputum, etc.; this service is available also to the Doctors practising in the District without charge. Bacteriological and chemical analyses are also undertaken for the examination of milk, foods, water supplies and sewage effluents, etc.

Ambulance Facilities.—The Wellington and District Ambulance Society, under the auspices of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, was inaugurated in 1930. The Ambulance Service is well organised and adequate for the areas of Wellington Urban and Rural Districts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

There have been no changes during the past year.

The Council's Engineers have prepared a post-war water supply scheme to cover certain areas of the District and at the same time to augment the Milverton and Wiveliscombe existing public water supplies by taking in additional springs. The Regional Water Scheme has been submitted to the County Council. Priority is anticipated in the case of Oake and Sampford Arundel.

Parishes or areas covered are:—

Bathealton through part of Stawley to Ashbrittle and south-east to Tracebridge.

Bathealton to Spring Grove, crossway then north to augment Wiveliscombe supply and include Langley and Ford.

Spring Grove and north-east and east to Buttsway to augment Milverton supply and further east to supply Houndsmoor and on to East Nynnehead.

East Nynnehead northwards to Oake and on to Taunton—Milverton main road where it turns west to supply Hillcommon with possible extension to Preston Bowyer.

Hillfarrance would be supplied from the Oake main.

Spring Grove crossway to Langford Budville and on to Thorne St. Margaret and White Ball. The supply could then be taken to Sampford Arundel—Sampford Moor—Pleamore Cross—Wrangway, and Ford Street.

A scheme is also included for Chipstable.

The following Summary shows in alphabetical order, the present water supplies in the District by Parishes, giving their acreage and population according to the Census of 1931.

The Public main water supplies in the District are chlorinated and analyses taken at regular intervals throughout the year have been found to be satisfactory.

ASHBRITTLE. 2158 Acres. Population 220.

Pump on Village Green. Remainder by wells.

BATHEALTON. 2598 Acreas. 179.

Pump to well near Rectory. Remainder by wells and springs.

BRADFORD. 1814 Acreas. 393.

Piped supply through Parish from Taunton Corporation mains.

CHIPSTABLE. 2455 Acres. 323.

Two standpipes in Village from spring and well. Remainder wells and springs.

FITZHEAD. 1247 Acres. 194.

Piped supply from Taunton R.D. mains at Halse. All but 3 houses are supplied from this main.

LANGFORD BUDVILLE. 2234 Acres. 440.

Privately owned water supply from 3 supplies, all from covered collecting tanks and piped to Village.

Owing to shortage it is necessary to haul water to this Village during the summer.

MILVERTON. 3465 Acres. 1185.

Piped supply from covered reservoir at Furbers Well.
Yield 6/12/34 8,600 G.P.D. normal 30,000 G.P.D.

Two springs below Furbers Well. Yield 6/12/34 3,400 G.P.D. normal 40,000 G.P.D.

Pumped to reservoir by Diesel 3 h.p. Lister Engine with Easton and Johnson Treble Ram Pump 2,500 G.P.H. or Lister 2½ h.p. Petrol Engine 1,400 G.P.H. Borehole at Olands feeds into 6in. trunk main by means of Beresford Submersible Electric Pump with booster pump at ground level. Output, 1,400 G.P.H.

It was not necessary during the summer to shut off the water supply during the night, but considerable pumping was necessary.

NYNEHEAD. 1706 Acres. 288.

16 Council houses supplied through pipes by storage tank and windmill over well.

Private piped supply and private wells.

OAKE. 1754 Acres. 413.

Supplied by wells and springs.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL. 1216 Acres. 323.

Sampfords Moor is supplied by spring from covered collecting tank and piped to hamlet.

Remainder springs and wells.

Owing to shortage it was necessary to haul water to several areas in this Parish during the summer of 1944.

STAWLEY. 2663 Acres. 302.

Supplied by springs and wells.

THORNE ST. MARGARET. 824 Acres. 89.

Supplied by springs and wells.

WEST BUCKLAND. 3739 Acres. 681.

Blackmoor is supplied by spring from covered collecting tank and piped to hamlet.

West Buckland village and district has piped supply from Taunton Corporation mains.

WELLINGTON WITHOUT. 2933 Acres. 504.

Holywell Lake is supplied by public spring with shute. Remainder is by wells and springs.

WIVELISCOMBE. 201 Acres. 1262.

Water is obtained from springs at Withycombe, gathering ground to a covered reservoir and piped to the Town. Yield 11/9/34, 22,500 G.P.D. Spring over 100,000 G.P.D. Capacity of reservoir 36,000 gallons. The water is chlorinated, the plant being a Wallace and Tiernan Automatic Chlorometer in duplicate. Water is obtained from a bore-hole 285 feet deep and pumped by a 15 h.p. Electric Motor direct mounted on a verticle spindle deep well turbine pump 14 stages at bottom 125 feet down 4 stages booster pump at top. (Mirrlees Watson Engineering Co., Ltd., Glasgow).

Delivers 5 to 6 thousand gallons per hour with 4in. service main from reservoir.

This is not duplicated.

It was necessary for a short period to shut off the water supply during the night.

WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT. 5904 Acres. 744.

Langley Cross and Lower Langley supplied by spring from covered collecting tank and piped to Hamlet.

Remainder springs and wells.

Sewage Disposal.

The Council's Engineers have prepared a sewerage and sewage disposal report for the District, which has been approved by the Council. The report divides the District into three categories.

1. Existing sewage works needing enlarging or modernising.
2. Complete sewage schemes desirable.
 - (a) including joint schemes and
 - (b) individual schemes.
3. Various areas where minimum schemes are required. Priority is anticipated for Bradford-on-Tone, Milverton, Langley and Langley Marsh, Hillcommon and Hillfarrance.

The existing Sewerage and Sewage Disposal of the District is here shown tabulated by Parishes:—

ASHBRITTLE. 2158 Acres. Population 220.

Septic tank to 4 Council houses in Rectory Road.

BATHEALTON. 2598 Acres. 1794.

Privately owned septic tanks.

BRADFORD. 1814 Acres. 393.

Most of the sewage collects at Gigley's pit near roadside leading to Hele.

Septic tank for 8 Council Houses at Tone Green.

Hamlet at Heatherton where a row of bungalows discharge into septic tank with filter, and second collecting tank for 4 houses near crossway at Heatherton Park.

CHIPSTABLE. 3455 Acres. 323.

Septic tank to 4 Council houses at Waterrow.

FITZHEAD. 1247 Acres. 194.

Septic tanks at 2 Council Housing Sites of 6 and 4 houses respectively. Part of Village sewage runs along roadside.

LANGFORD BUDVILLE. 2234 Acres. 440.

Septic tank with filter to 8 Council houses.

Most of sewage collects in tanks or is land treated in large field at rear of houses.

MILVERTON. 3465 Acres. 1185.

Two settlement tanks with scumboards—total capacity about 20,000 gallons—and effluent then passes over 7 weirs through about 700 yards of open land treatment to Hillfarrance brook.

NYNEHEAD. 1706 Acres. 288.

Hartley's system for 16 Council houses.

Lower Nynhead sewage passes through Orchard in open gutter; other properties have private septic tanks.

OAKE. 1754 Acres. 413.

Septic tank to 4 Council Houses.

Hamlet with no drainage system, but some private tanks.

SAMPFORD ARUNDEL. 1216 Acres. 323.

Septic tank to 4 Council houses.

Houses with private tanks.

STAWLEY. 2663 Acres. 302.

Private tanks to houses.

THORNE ST. MARGARET. 824 Acres. 89.

Private tanks to houses.

WEST BUCKLAND. 3739 Acres. 681.

Septic tank for 2 Council House Estates of 4 each. Sewage discharges in open gutter in field at rear of School.

Hartley's system for Ham and Budgetts Cross Council Housing Sites (24 altogether).

WELLINGTON WITHOUT. 2933 Acres. 504.

A new Sewer and small Sewage Disposal Works were completed during 1945, at Holywell Lake. Otherwise there are only private septic tanks.

WIVELISCOMBE. 201 Acres. 1262.

Hillsmoor. Consists of 4 settlement tanks each of 25,000 gallons capacity used in series. Sewage is screened and the grit first removed. Effluent then passes over grass land.

Style. Two settlement tanks, one of which is reserved for storm water. Sewage is screened and grit removed. Capacity of tank is 11,500 gallons each. Effluent passes over 10 weirs and thence over grass land.

WIVELISCOMBE WITHOUT. 5904 Acres. 744.

Septic tanks at Langley Cross for 16 Council Houses and at Croford for 4 Council Houses.

Collecting tank at Langley Orchard for Langley and and Langley Marsh. Effluent discharges at roadside.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collections are now undertaken by the Council in the following areas:—

Weekly—Wiveliscombe—Extended quarterly to Heathstock. Milverton (alternate weeks salvage and housing refuse extended quarterly to Preston and Hillcommon).

Quarterly—Ashbrittle, Bathealton, Bradford, Fitzhead, Langford Budville, Nynhead, Sampford Arundel Arundel, Wellington Without, West Buckland.

Salvage.

A total of 5 tons 1 cwt. has been salvaged during the year the cash value of this being £34 15s.

					<i>District Council.</i>	
					<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>
Waste Paper	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	14
Rags, Sacking, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	5
Bottles, etc.	.....	.....	.....	.....		2
					<hr/>	
					5	1
					<hr/>	

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is a Public Swimming Bath at Wiveliscombe Recreation Ground. It is fed by spring water from Withycombe and Coate. These sources are polluted so that chlorination of the water is necessary before it enters the Swimming Bath.

Schools.

The Sanitary conditions and Water Supply of the Public Elementary Schools in the District are generally satisfactory.

Factories Act, 1937.

The following are details of inspections made during the year:—

1.—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors):—

Premises.	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	20	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies				
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order. 1938	—	—	—	—
(b) Others	23	54	5	—
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	33	74	5	—

2. Cases on which *Defects* were found:—

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H. M. Inspector	By H. M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1.)	4	4	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home-work)	2	1	—	2	—
TOTAL	7	6	—	4	—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following tabular statement is furnished by the Sanitary Inspector.

Number and Nature of Inspections during the year 1946:—

Dwelling-houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	650
Slaughter-houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Bakehouses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Other Premises where food is prepared or sold	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	143
Places where animals are kept (other than Cowsheds)	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	—
Infectious Diseases Enquiries and Disinfections	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Factories, Workshops and Workplaces	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	32
Miscellaneous	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	317

Number of Notices served during the year :—

Informal Notices	21
Statutory Notices	12

Result of Service of Notices :—

Total Notices complied with	23
Notices standing over at the end of 1946	10

Shops and Offices.—Under the provisions of Sec. 13 (3) of the Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation, temperature and sanitary conveniences of shops 7 visits have been made.

Camping Sites.—The Council has issued one licence in respect of a camping site appearing to fall within Section 269 (2) of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement.—No action has been found necessary to be taken under Section 101 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Swimming Baths and Pools.—There is one at Wiveliscombe.

Eradication of Bed-bugs.—One house was found to be infested with bed-bugs and was disinfested.

Offensive Trades.—There is no offensive trade in the District within the meaning of Section 107 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Water.—Samples from the Public Supplies were periodically examined during the year. Arrangements for the chlorination of the Milverton supply were put in hand but the apparatus was not complete at the end of the year.

Bakehouses.—There are seven Bakehouses in the District, 28 inspections were made to them. Six of the bakehouses now draw their water supply from public mains.

Meat Supply.—Under the Live Stock (Restrictions on Slaughtering) Order, 1940, the slaughtering of animals for human consumption is carried out only at certain specified slaughter houses. As none of these are in the District, meat sold at the Butchers' Shops has been inspected before sale to the consumer. Normally there are 8 Licensed Slaughter-houses in the District.

The following foods were surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption.

Canned food	2 lbs.
Cakes	200 lbs.
Lambs	32 lbs.

Milk Supply.—143 inspections were made to 202 registered premises in the area. 79 samples of milk were taken and examined by the County Bacteriologist. The analytical results were as follows:—

<i>Designation</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken</i>	<i>No. found satisfactory</i>	<i>No. found unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Percentage unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested	42	35	7	16.67
Accredited	12	10	2	16.67
Examined for tubercle bacilli	23	22	1	4.35
Pasteurised	2	2	—	—
Totals	79	69	10	12.66

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.—No cows had to be slaughtered during the year under this Order.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

Number of Producers on the Register 202

Number of Distributors on the Registers divided
as follows:—

(a) Distributors only 3

(b) Distributors who are also Producers 86

Milk Special (Designated) Order, 1936 and 1938.

Under these Orders, the following Licences are in force in the District and issued by the County Council:—

Licences: Tuberculin tested producers 21

Accredited producers 6

In addition, there is one Supplementary Licence issued by the Local Authority for the Sale of Pasteurised Milk in the District, but which is not produced therein.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

On the 31st December, 1946, the following were billeted in the District:—

Unaccompanied children 2

Accompanied children —

Mothers, Helpers and Teachers —

2

In requisitioned cottages:—

Mothers	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Accompanied children	.....	.....	.....	.....	26
Adults and Teachers	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
					—
				Total	53
					—

HOUSING.

One further case of overcrowding has been reported and one case has been abated. At the end of the year there were still 53 evacuees of all categories in the District. Five dwellings condemned under the Housing Act, 1936, are still occupied and covered by Regulation 68A. Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. In addition, 23 cottages are under Requisition Orders by Authority of the same Regulations.

The Council have had under consideration the post-war housing needs of the District (a) to replace unfit dwellings; (b) to abate overcrowding; (c) for other reasons. To obtain the number of houses to be built to replace unfit dwellings, a housing survey is being carried out in accordance with Ministry of Health Circular 64/44 Rural Housing. This Survey covers all houses up to and including £16 Rateable Value. During 1944-1946 247 have been inspected and classified as follows:—

Requiring repairs	.....	.....	.....	58
Requiring reconstruction	.....	.....	.....	91
Unfit	.....	.....	.....	118
				—
			Total	247
				—

During the year 8 houses (Swedish Timber Type) at Oake and Doltons, Milverton, were completed.

Erection of houses were in progress as follows:—

Houndsmoor, Milverton	.....	4 (Swedish Timber)
Courtfield, Milverton	.....	10
Ham, West Buckland	.....	10
Plain Pond, Wiveliscombe	.....	34

Site Approved:—Crown Inn, West Buckland—10 houses.

At the end of the year there were about 200 applicants on the waiting list for Council Houses.

The following table shows the Parishes in which the Council have erected houses under the various Acts:—

<i>Parish.</i>	<i>Address.</i>	<i>No. of houses.</i>	<i>Total for Parishes.</i>
Ashbottle	Rectory Road	4	4
Bathealton	—	—	—
Bradford-on-Tone	Tone Green	8	8
Chipstable	Waterrow	4	4
Fitzhead	Church Road	4	
	Hills	6	10
Langford Budville	Reynolds	6	6
Milverton	Lower Fairfield	8	
	Fairfield Terrace	8	
	New Field	4	
	Torrells, Hillcommon	4	
	Courtfield	30	
	Doltons	2	56
Nynehead	Farthings Close	16	16
Oake	Bridge	4	
	Oake Close	6	10
Sampford Arundel	Breach	4	4
Stawley	—	—	—
Thorne St. Margaret	—	—	—
Wellington Without	Lake Cottages		
	Holywell Lake	4	4
West Buckland	Sawyers Hill	4	
	Holway	4	
	Budgetts Cross	8	
	Castle Cotts, Ham	16	32
Wiveliscombe	Northgate	53	
	Southgate	28	81
Wiveliscombe Without	Croford	4	
	Langley Cross	14	18
			253

Of the above total of 253 houses, 107 were built to replace houses dealt with by Slum Clearance in previous years, under the Housing Acts of 1930 and 1936.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following table shows the number of notifications received for Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis), age group and numbers admitted to Taunton Isolation Hospital:—

DISEASES	TOTAL	AGE GROUPS							No. admitted to Isolation Hospital.
		0 —	1 —	3 —	5 —	10 —	15 —	25 and over	
Scarlet Fever	9	—	—	1	4	1	1	2	6
Whooping Cough	27	3	3	7	14	—	—	—	—
Measles	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Paratyphoid	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

The following table shows some of the notification rates for Wellington Rural District compared with those for England and Wales taken as a whole.

Disease	Notification Rates for	
	Wellington R.D.	England & Wales
Scarlet Fever	1.17	1.38
Whooping Cough	3.52	2.28
Measles	0.39	3.92
Diphtheria	0.13	0.28
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	8.50

The above figures are calculated Rates per 1,000 civilian population with the exception of Puerperal Pyrexia which is calculated per 1,000 live and still births.

The District is one of the constituent Authorities forming the Taunton & District Joint Isolation Hospital Board. The Annual Report of the work done at Taunton Isolation Hospital during 1946 will be found at the end of this report.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis.—Time will show whether the decrease in Diphtheria may be attributed entirely or partly to Immunisation against Diphtheria. The disease incidence appears to be shifting from the most susceptible ages 0 to 15 years to the higher age groups. Immunisation is being carried out by the Medical Staff of the Somerset County Council and by General Medical Practitioners in the District. In the recent Circulars (193/45 and 194/45) issued by the Ministry of Health, stress is rightly laid on ensuring primary inoculation of as many pre-school and school children as possible. At the same time it must be remembered that, if Diphtheria is to be kept under control, the state of resistance of children who have received primary immunisation must be maintained by re-inoculation at suitable intervals. Infants of the age of 8 to 9 months should be immunised because one of every two unimmunised contracting the disease under the age of one year, dies. By the time the child reaches school age, the primary stimulus of the earlier immunisation has waned, and, to remedy this, every child should be given a reinforcing dose of toxoid before he begins school attendance. After 6 years of mass immunisation of the children of this country, approximately 55 per cent. have been immunised. The aim is to immunise at least 75 per cent. The Circulars point out that there are some 600,000 children being added to the country's susceptible population every year and it is suggested that it is to the age group one and two that much greater attention should be directed in 1946. It is estimated that the rate of dying from Diphtheria is approximately 23 times as great amongst the non-immunised as amongst the immunised. The following figures show how the Scheme is progressing in Wellington Rural District:—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Pre-school Children age group 0-4.</i>	<i>School Children age group 5-15.</i>
1941	247	674
1942	106	131
1943	80	14
1944	85	24
1945	117	5
1946	81	5

During 1946, 40 children received a secondary or re-inforcing injection.

Based on mid-year 1946 population, it is estimated that there are in the District 619 children under 5 years of age and 1,080 children between 5 and 15 years.

Age	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	Total under 15
No. Immunised	2	39	76	88	68	430	616	1319

TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

The following form of return is required by the Ministry of Health:—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
20—25	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	3	2	1	—	2	—	—	—

At the end of the year, the Tuberculosis Registers contained the names and addresses of 18 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 11 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Tuberculosis in the milk trade, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

The Local Authority have no special arrangement of their own under Sec. 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for assisting in the prevention and treatment of Blindness. Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, which used to be a potent cause of blindness, are promptly notified to the applicable Department of the County Council and so obtain early treatment and if necessary in the Isolation Hospital.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT HOSPITAL BOARD

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST
DECEMBER, 1946.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I append a tabulated statement of the work of the Hospital during the year, 1946, showing the number of admissions, discharges and deaths, and the various conditions coming under treatment.

The number of admissions was lower than in 1945 (172 as compared with 260), and this was accounted for almost entirely by a drop in the numbers of cases of diphtheria, diphtheria carriers, tonsillitis, gastro enteritis, and mothers suffering from puerperal fever, who are usually accompanied by their babies.

The ever increasing shortage of nurses has caused great anxiety and credit is due to the Matron and her Staff for the way in which the work of the Hospital has been carried out without any lowering in the standard of service to the patients.

Eight operations were performed in the Theatre, as against seventeen in 1945. They were: 1 Dilatation and curettage by Mr. Nicholson Lailey; 1 Incision and Drainage of Breast Abscess by Mr. Rowlands; and 6 Tonsillectomies by Mr. Graeme Allen.

There was one death from cerebral haemorrhage following erysipelas.

There were 42 admissions to the Tuberculosis Sanatorium; 28 were discharged and 12 died. The total number of patient days for these cases was 7,021 as against 7,363 for 1945. In connection with the Tuberculosis work there were carried out 552 artificial pneumothoraces and 10 gas replacements.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HUGH MORRISON,

Medical Superintendent.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

TABULATED STATEMENT OF CASES ETC., FOR YEAR 1946.

DISTRICT	ADMITTED	Brought forward, Remaining, Dec., 1946	DISCHARGED	DIED	PATIENT DAYS	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Diphtheria Carrier	Tonsillitis (Vincent's, Angina, etc.	Broncho-Pneumonia	Erysipelas.	Chicken Pox.	Whooping Cough	Skin Rashes (Observation)	Meningo-Encephalitis	Typhoid Fever	Enteritis	Poliomyelitis	Meningitis	Meningismus	Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	Puerperal Fever	Contact Infants	Septic Abortion	Cow Pox	Adenitis	Pemphigus	Nursing Mothers	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Rubella	? V. D.	Observation Mumps	Obser. Whooping Cough		
Taunton Borough	62	10	6	65	1	2016	33	2	2	7	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Wellington U. D.	10	2	-	12	-	424	7	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Taunton Rural ...	25	6	-	31	-	1006	13	1	1	3	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Wellington Rural	8	1	-	9	-	262	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Bridgwater Rural	8	2	1	9	-	303	4	2	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dulverton Rural	N	1	L	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Other Authorities	18	-	1	17	-	501	6	2	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	2		
Maternity and Child Welfare																																			
Somerset C. C.	32	1	2	31	-	484	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	9	3	-	-	-	2	2	3	-	-	-	-	
Taunton Borough	8	-	-	8	-	152	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Cases Staff	1	-	-	1	-	9	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS	172	22	10	183	1	5157	69	7	4	14	3	7	2	2	1	1	1	5	2	2	2	1	17	13	3	1	1	1	3	2	3	2	1	1	2

